

# Hipswell Parish ([www.hipswellparish.org.uk](http://www.hipswellparish.org.uk))

St Cuthbert's, Colburn & St John's, Hipswell, both aim to be:

**“A warm, welcoming church; open to the wider community;  
confident in Jesus' love and presence.”**

## May 14<sup>th</sup>: Fifth Sunday of Easter

**News:** It was great last Sunday to have Bob Matthews, our Reader-in-Training on placement with us, from Leyburn, preaching to us at both churches on the theme of 'The Good Shepherd'; and to have Padre Chris Withers and the worship group leading our Sunday worship at St Cuthbert's. What a blessing on



occasion to have a wider group of volunteers serving in this way – and to have two of our younger members (Becky and Katie) involved – on guitar and vocals, respectively. We're also grateful for all the time put in by Chris and the group, in preparing to lead us.

Bob, in his sermon, was telling us of the time when he had visited his sister and brother-in-law on their sheep farm near Otterburn, in Northumberland. They had watched the shepherd, his shepherdess wife and their faithful collie riding around on a quad bike, checking on their various flocks. Whenever they had found a ewe lying down, they had counter-intuitively run at it, butting it back onto its feet with the quad bike! Although this had seemed rather harsh treatment, the point was that it was better to cause some momentary discomfort than to allow it to become a 'riggwelter' – a sheep unable to roll over and stand up – in which case it would have died. Sometimes Jesus needs to give us a bit of a prod, in order to get us back on our feet and able to live effectively as 'the sheep of his pasture' – his beloved flock, for whom he has laid down his life. His desire is never to disable us, but to urge us to stand up and be counted – each ready to play our unique and vital role in ushering in his kingdom of justice and peace. I wonder, when did Jesus last give you a prod? How did he do that? How did you respond? We were reminded from the passage in John Ch 10 that Jesus' sheep know his voice, as he leads them forwards, and they refuse to listen to others who might lead them astray. As we enter this election period, let's pray that we hear Jesus' voice, as we try to discern which way to use our democratic voice.

**Vicar:** Revd Andrew Cromarty

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We are delighted that our local North Yorkshire County Councillor, Helen Grant, was re-elected recently, as an Independent. Many of us will know Helen, and the enormous amounts of time, energy and compassion she has selflessly committed to supporting this community, in a non-party political way. Many sincere congratulations, Helen!

On Tuesday, I was privileged to attend a diocesan Estates Churches Ministry day at Belle Isle, Leeds. Among the various speakers was Andy Sims, head of 'e:merge' a Christian charity reaching out to disaffected young people on the outer estates of Bradford, and now also in London. Andy was speaking about the difference in aspiration levels between those living in London, sitting next to a multi-million pound development near Battersea, and those on the extensive Bradford estates. In the latter, it is a real struggle to persuade young people that there's actually something more to reach for, and that it's worth trying to get some qualifications to enable them to find jobs. Many of our young people are taking GCSEs and A-Levels soon. Let's pray that they have the energy and the courage to approach them positively, & that the Lord gives each one his peace at this stressful time. Some wise words from Heidi Baker, a church-planting missionary in Mozambique, seem very appropriate here for us all: 'Today you are totally accepted. Loved unconditionally. You don't have to worry when you mess up; God still thinks you're awesome.'

### Coming up this week:

**Monday:** 7-8pm Worship Group practice, St Cuthbert's Community Hall

7-8 pm Churchwarden's Hour, Meeting Room

**Tuesday:** 10-12 noon Colburn Veterans' & Community Art Group, St Cuthbert's Community Hall

2.45pm Revd Andrew, Hipswell Primary assembly

4.40pm Stephen Calvert, Architect, site visit, St John's

**Wednesday:** 9-11.30am Drop-in, St Cuthbert's Hall

6.30 for 7pm, Richmond School: Election Hustings

Questions in advance to [gillian.lunn@yahoo.com](mailto:gillian.lunn@yahoo.com)

**Saturday:** 11.30am Funeral, Alan Muir, St Cuthbert's

**Sunday:** 7-9pm 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer evening, St Cuthbert's Church

**Prayers: For those who are local, seeking comfort & healing:** We pray for Jenny, Maggie, Jack, Emma, Angela, Linda, Peter, Ann, Matthew, John, Nicola, Liz, John & Lance, Jenny & Lucy, Christine, John, Jordan & Abi; Harry, Cath & Tony.

**Those who have died recently & those who mourn,** especially the families of Alan Muir & Kerry Watt .

### Next Week: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**St John's: 9.30am Holy Communion**

**St Cuthbert's: 11am Service of the Word/KFC**